His Majesties DECLARATION

To all His loving Subjects,

after His Victories over

THE LORD FAIRFAX IN THE NORTH,

AND,

Sr WILLIAM WALLER IN THE WEST,

AND

THE TAKING OF BRISTOLL

by His Majesties Forces.

CHARLES R.

OVr expreſſe pleaſure is, That this Our Declaration be Publiſhed in all Churches and Chappells within the Kingdom of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*, by the Parſons, Vicars or Curates of the ſame.

Printed by His Majesties Command

At *OXFORD*, *July* 30.

By Leonard Lichfield, Printer

to the Vniverſity. 1643.

HIS MAJESTIES

DECLARATION

To all His loving Subjects.

AFTER

HIS VICTORIES OVER

The LORD FAIRFAX in the *North*,
Sir WILLIAM WALLER in the *West*,
and the taking of *Briſtoll* by His
Maieſties Forces.

AS the Greivances and Loſſes of no particular Perſons ſince theſe miſerable bloody Diſtempers have diſquieted this poore Kingdom, can be compared to the loſſe and dammage We Our Self have ſuſtained, there having been no Victory obtayned but in the Blood of Our Owne Subjects, nor no Rapine or Violence committed but to the impoveriſhment, and ruine of Our Owne People, ſo a bleſſed and a happy Peace cannot be ſo acceptable and

welcome to any man as to Us. Almighty God to whom all the secrets of Our Heart are open, who hath so often, and so miraculously preserved Vs, & to whose power alone We must attribute the goodnesse of Our present Condition, (how unhappy soever it is with reference to the publique Calamities) knowes with what unwillingnesse, with what anguish of Soule, We submitted Our Self to the necessity of taking up Defensive Armes: and the World knowes with what Iustice and Bounty We had repaied Our Subjects for all the Pressures and Inconvenienees they had borne, by such excellent Lawes as would for ever have prevented the like; and with what earnestnesse and importunity We desired to add any thing for the establishment of the Religion, Lawes, and Liberty of the Kingdom. How all these have been disturbed, invaded, and almost destroyed by Faction, Sedition, and Treason, by those who have neither Reverence to God, or Affection to Men, but have sacrificed both to their owne Ends and Ambition, is now so evident, that We hope, as God hath wonderfully manifested his care of Vs, and his defence of his and Our most Iust Cause, so he hath so farre touched the hearts of Our People, that their Eyes are at last opened to see how miserably they have been seduced, and to abhorre those Persons whose Malice and Subtilty have seduced them to dishonour him, to Rebell against Vs, and to bring so much misery and calamity upon their native Country.

We well remember the *Protestation* voluntarily made by Vs, in the head of that small Army We were master of in *September* last, to defend and maintaine the true reformed Protestant Religion, and if it should please God by his blessing upon that Army to preserve Vs from this Rebellion, that We would maintaine the just Priviledges and Freedom of Parliament, and governe by the knowne Lawes of

the

the Land, for whose defence in truth that Army was only raised, and hath been since kept. And there cannot be a more seasonable time to renew that *Protestation* then now, when God hath vouchsafed Vs so many Victories and Successes, and hath rendered the power of those who seek to destroy Vs, lesse formidable then it hath been, (so that We shall probably not fall under the scandalous Imputation which hath usually attended Our Messages of Peace, That they proceeded from the weaknesse of Our power, not love of Our People, and when there is more freedome in many Countyes for Our good Subjects to receive true Information of their owne and Our Condition, the knowledge whereof hath been with equall Industry and Injustice kept from them, as other Acts of Cruelty have been imposed on them. We doe therefore declare to all the World in the presence of Almighty God to whom We must give a strict accompt of all Our Professions and Protestations, That We are so farre from intending any alteration of the Religion established (as hath been often falsly, scandalously, and against the Conscience of the Contrivers themselves of that rumour suggested to Our People) or from the least thought of invading the Liberty and Property of the Subject, or violating the just Priviledges of Parliament, that We call that God to witnesse, who hath covered Our Head in the day of Battaile, that We desire from Our Soule, and shall alwayes use Our utmost endeavour to preserve and advance the true reformed Protestant Religion established in the Church of *England*, in which We were borne, have faithfully lived, and by the grace of God shall resolutely dye; That the preservation of the Liberty and Property of the Subject in the due observation of the knowne Lawes of the Land, shall be equally Our care as the maintenance of Our Owne Rights, We desiring to governe only by

thoſe good Lawes, which till they were oppreſſed by this odious Rebellion, preſerved this Nation happy; and We do acknowledge the juſt Priviledges of Parliament to be an eſſentiall part of thoſe Lawes, and ſhall therefore moſt ſolemnely defend and obſerve them. So that in truth if either Religion, Law or Liberty be precious to Our People, they will by their ſubmiſſion to Vs joyn with Vs in the defence of them, and thereby eſtabliſh that Peace, by which only they can flouriſh and be enjoyed. Whether theſe men, who are profeſſed Enemies to the eſtabliſhed Eccleſiaſticall Government, who reproach and perſecute the Learned Orthodox Miniſters of the Church, and into their places put Ignorant, Seditious, and Schiſmaticall Preachers, who vilifie the Book of Common-Prayer, and impiouſly prophane Gods Worſhip with their ſcurrilous and ſeditious demeanour, are like to advance that Religion; whether thoſe men who boldly, and without the leaſt ſhadow or colour of Law, impoſe inſupportable Taxes and odious Exciſes upon their fellow Subjects, Impriſon, Torment, and murther them, are like to preſerve the Liberty, and Property of the Subject; and whether thoſe men who ſeize and poſſeſſe themſelves of Our own unqueſtionable Revenue, and Our juſt Rights, have denied Vs Our Negative Voyce, have by Force & Violence awed and terrified the Members of both Houſes, and laſtly, have, as far as in them lyes, diſſolved the preſent Parliament by driving away & Impriſoning the Members, and reſolving the whole power thereof, and more, into a Committee of a few Men, contrary to all Law, Cuſtome, or Preſident, are like to vindicate and uphold the Priviledges of Parliament, all the world may judge. We do therefore once more conjure Our good Subjects by their memory of that excellent Peace, and firme happineſſe with which it pleaſed God to reward their Duty and Loy-

alty

alty in time paſt, by their Oathes of Allegiance, and Supremacy which no new Vow, or Covenant contrived, and adminiſtred to and by themſelves, can cancell or evade, by whatſoever is deare and precious unto them in this life, or hoped or prayed for in the life to come, That they will remember their Duty and conſider their Intereſt, and no longer ſuffer themſelves to be miſled, their Prince diſhonoured, and their Country waſted and undone, by the malice & cunning of theſe State Impoſtours, who under pretence of Reformation would introduce whatſoever is monſtrous & unnaturall both to Religion and Policy, but that they rather chuſe quietly to enjoy their Religion, Property, and Liberty, founded and provided for by the wiſedom and Induſtry of former times, and ſecured and enlarged by the bleſſings upon the preſent Age, then to ſpend their lives and fortunes to purchaſe Confuſion, and to make themſelves lyable to the moſt intolerable kind of ſlavery, that is, to be ſlaves to their fellow Subjects, who by their prodigious unheard of Acts of oppreſſion and Tyranny, have given them ſufficient evidence what they are to expect at their hands. And let not Our good People, who have been misled, or through want of underſtanding, or want of Courage ſubmitted themſelves to unwarrantable and diſloyall Actions, be taught by their Seducers, that their ſafety now conſiſts in diſpaire, and that they can only ſecure themſelves for the Ills they have done, by a reſolute and peremptory Diſobedience. Revenge and Blood-thirſtyneſſe have never been imputed to Us by thoſe, who have left neither Our Government or Nature unexamined with the greateſt boldneſſe and malice; and all thoſe who ſince theſe bloody Diſtractions out of Conſcience have returned from their evill wayes to Vs, have found that it was not ſo eaſie for them to repent, as to Us to forgive; and whoſoever hath

bee

been misled by those, whose hearts from the beginning have designed all this mischiefe, and shall redeem their past Crimes by their present service and Loyalty in the apprehending, or opposing such who shall continue to beare Armes against Vs, and shall use their utmost endeavours to reduce those men to their due Obedience, and to restore this Kingdome to it's wonted Peace, shall have cause to magnifie Our mercy, and to repent the Trespasses committed against so just and Gratious a Soveraigne. Lastly, We desire all Our good Subjects, who have really assisted or really wished Vs well, now God hath done such wonderfull things for Vs, vigorously to endeavour to put an end to all these miseries, by bringing in Men, Money, Plate, Horses, or Armes to Our Aide, that so, We being not wanting to Our selves, may with confidence expect the continuance of Gods favour to restore Vs all to that blessed harmony of Affections, which may establish a firme Peace, without the speedy obtaining of which this poor Kingdom will be utterly undone, though not absolutely lost.

FINIS.